



The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
May 2018 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 27, Issue 5



ARRL EXPO and 2018 Hamvention® May 18, 19, and 20



Food, Fun, Ham Radio, Mud? (Hopefully not this year!)

# Message from the President

The thing that's always fascinated me about Amateur Radio is how many different things you can do and the many ways you can do it. How many different modes of operation can you name? How many of them have you tried? How many ways can use Amateur Radio such as emergency communications, chasing rare locations around the world or simply making new friends? Maybe the real question is what got you interested in getting your Amateur Radio License.

I can't speak for everyone, but thinking back, I asked myself what got me interested at the start. For me, I guess I found an interest in some kind of radio at a very young age. I remember getting a crystal radio kit and connecting a long wire antenna to the handle of our home refrigerator. Unfortunately, our refrigerator had an electrical problem and my antenna wire glowed bright red before melting. That mishap did not deter me and Santa Claus soon brought me my own Dick Tracy communicator radio which was a low power walkie-talkie with a speaker mic on my wrist. I talked to my best friend across the street until the wee hours of the morning.

Later, my interest in radio took me to the CB bands and I could talk across town. Soon after, another friend introduced me to Amateur Radio and I was hooked. I had to learn CW at 5 words per minute and used my CB walkie talkie with a tone button to send tones as CW with my friend for us to practice and pass the Novice test.

My Amateur Radio exploits progressed through high school and getting a General Class license at 13 WPM, then an Advanced Class license before heading off to college. My interest centered around building, using and maintaining repeaters for the next 30 years while trying to balance family and work obligations.

I can't tell you what changed in my life, but after 9/11, my interest in Emergency Communications was sparked and exposure to new technologies and modes including digital voice and various data modes was intriguing. Needless to say, a whole new world was



"GARS has created a great opportunity for new Hams to gain ... exposure to the many aspects of Amateur Radio with the GARS Workshop on the third Tuesday of each month"

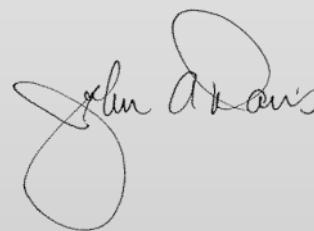
opened with digital voice such as D-STAR, DMR, Fusion and CODEC2. Data modes such as Packet, Winmor, JT65, WSPR, FT8 opened up new curiosities for me. I became a student again and wanted to soak up all the information I could, get them on the air and operate.

As a new Ham, it may feel like you are drinking from a fire hose with some many things you can do. Don't get overwhelmed, but don't be afraid to jump in either. GARS has created a great opportunity for new Hams to gain that exposure to the many aspects of Amateur Radio with the GARS Workshop on the third Tuesday of each month. Thanks to the

efforts of W4DTR, the Workshop features a new aspect of Amateur Radio and allows new licensees as well as old timers to get introduced to new modes, new devices and new technologies. Other GARS members assist each month to help others explore new things.

It's a busy time as we move into Summer and the activities are gearing up as well. As we finish May Madness, the Dacula Memorial Day Parade is right around the corner. The Atlanta Hamfest and Field Day will keep us busy in June. Stay tuned and stay active.

73,



**WB4QDX, Club President**

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]

# GARS May Meeting and Workshop

## Field Day Operations and Setup

by David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Tuesday, April 10, 2018 7:00 pm

## Getting Ready for Field Day And Computer Logging

by David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Tuesday, April 17, 2018 7:00 pm

Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1  
690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

[Directions to EAA Hangar](#)

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### **GARS Communications**

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance)
<u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset	<b>Other Resources:</b> <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR
<u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>D-Star</u> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

**Don't forget  
to support our  
advertisers at the  
back of the  
GARzette.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>  
Newsletter Editor: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org) Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603





# Member QRZ Pages

For several months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

## W4KDA - Kyle Albritton

When you click on the link below you will find this picture.

<http://qrz.com/lookup/W4KDA>

Read the notes and get to know him better. You'll be glad you did.

Here is an excerpt from the page:

I just finished four years as the President of the [Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society](#) (GARS) which is a very lively and growing club near the city of Atlanta. GARS is the Dayton Hamvention 2014 Club of the Year! I am also a very active member of [Gwinnett ARES](#) which I view as a worthy public service to the community.

My first hobby of love is cars. I own and race vintage and classic cars. I enjoy restoring vehicles and modifying them (of course).

On the air, I work various modes on all bands between 160m and 2m. I also occasionally work 1.25m, 70cm, and 33cm. The band I enjoy the most is 6m where I do SSB and FM work. I enjoy both voice and digital modes such as PSK and JT-65.

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!



## News, Press Releases, & General Interest

### GARS HELP WANTED

Public Information Officer (PIO) - Serve as the official GARS spokesperson. Provide information to the public and media when necessary. Write articles about GARS events (Field Day and other events) and release them to local media sources. To find out more about what is involved in being a club PIO, see [The ARRL PR-101 Page](#).

[Techfest.info](#) webmaster—a volunteer is needed to take over maintaining the [Techfest.info](#) website. Website changes typically start the months leading up to the TechFest event in January and end shortly after the event with summaries and wrap-up. Experience with maintaining a website under Wordpress or another Content Management System is desired but not required.

Georgia QSO Party Chairperson - a volunteer is needed to organize and coordinate next year's Georgia QSO Party in April, 2019 and beyond. The chairperson will schedule the facility, recruit station captains and volunteers to organize food and antennas.

Winter Field Day (WFD) Chairperson -- a volunteer is needed to organize and coordinate next year's Winter Field Day operating event in January, 2019 and beyond. The chairperson will schedule the facility, recruit station captains and volunteers to organize food and antennas. The outgoing Chairperson (Dave, W4DTR) will train you if needed.

If you're interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact one of the GARS Officers. Supporting GARS activities is an important part of what we do and the help of club members is needed.

[PS— articles to publish in the GARzette, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

# GARS Happenings



## COBB COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

2018 \*NEW\* Location

Air Conditioning, Bigger Forum Rooms  
Closer! Less than 2 miles from I-75



Saturday, June 2, 2018  
Still 8am to 3pm

Make a family day of it...  
Come for the Hamfest  
Stay for the Braves vs Dodgers at 4PM  
We're only 6 Miles from Sun Trust Park!

Produced by the Atlanta Radio Club and  
Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club  
Watch [AtlantaHamfest.com](http://AtlantaHamfest.com) for Updates



2018 ARRL  
Georgia  
State Convention

### MAY MADNESS 2018, a contest for GARS members only

Contest begins 5/4/18 at 6:00 PM and ends 5/13/18 at 11:59 PM. Only GARS members may participate.

#### Allowed Contacts:

Any frequency where Technician class licensees are allowed to operate may be used. Contacts may be simplex or repeater; any simplex frequency is allowed. Any station can be worked once per band per mode

#### Modes:

1) SSB (voice); 2) FM; 3) Digital (CW is a digital mode)

#### Exchange:

Call Sign. Old GARS member or New member – add OM or NM (i.e. AF4FG/OM or KI4QCI/NM)

#### Scoring:

1 point for each voice contact; 2 points for each digital contact; 1 bonus point for each new member contact

#### Awards:

Top Ten scores receive a GARS hat unique to this year's contest. All participants who turn in a log receive a GARS patch or decal

Logs must be submitted electronically by Midnight May 31, 2018 to [af4fg@arrrl.net](mailto:af4fg@arrrl.net)

For more information, and to download the event log, visit the May Madness Web Page at <http://www.gars.org/gars/may-madness-2018/>

# “Alexa, Help Me with Ham Radio”

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an [Amazon Alexa](#) for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how [I'd like to develop an Alexa skill](#) to control my IC-7300. I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called [Continuous Wave](#). It's designed to help you learn Morse Code.

To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, “Alexa, open Continuous Wave.” This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt...

- Learn
- Practice
- Alphabet
- Common words
- Random words
- Words
- Sentences
- Call signs
- Contest
- Quick Brown Fox
- QSO
- Help
- Stop – To end your session.



I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only.

Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command “learn,” it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed.

Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill.

## Other ham radio skills

While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found:

- [Ham Exam](#). Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool.
- [Ham Lookup](#). Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database.
- [Ham Radio Propagation Forecast](#). Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by NONBH).
- [ARRL Audio News](#). Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing.

## Building your own voice app

The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at [VoiceApps.Com](#). Two other websites—[Pullstring](#) and [StoryLine](#)—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an [online tutorial](#) that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier.

Since I'm currently in the process of updating my [No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide](#), it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

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When he's not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about the voice apps that you like at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



# Armed Forces Crossband Communications Test

## Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Communication Test Set for Saturday, May 12

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will sponsor the traditional military/amateur radio communication tests to mark the 67th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD) on Saturday, May 12. Armed Forces Day is May 19, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event traditionally takes place 1 week earlier in order to avoid conflicting with Hamvention. Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is available on the [US Army MARS website](#).

The annual celebration is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between radio amateurs and military stations (authorized under §97.111 of the Amateur Service rules). It features traditional military-to-amateur crossband SSB voice, CW, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, and the opportunity for participating hams to utilize more modern military modes, such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). Military stations and Amateur Radio stations are authorized to communicate directly on certain 60-meter interoperability channels.

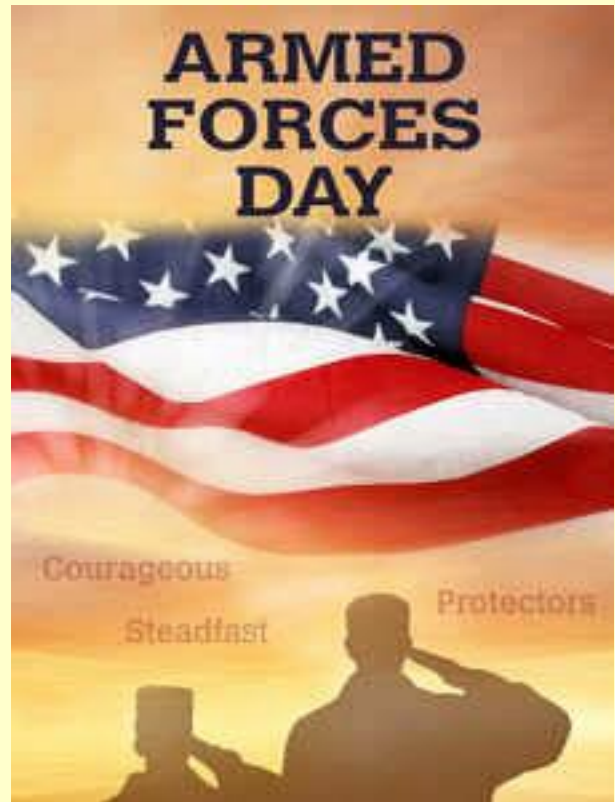
These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly-controlled exercise scenario, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station. QSL cards will be available for stations successfully contacting participating military stations.

Military stations will transmit (USB, unless otherwise noted on the schedule) on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur frequencies they are monitoring. MARS stressed that frequencies used for the test will not impact any public or private communications and will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

An Armed Forces Day test message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) Serial PSK waveform (M110) followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY), as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. [Technical information](#) regarding these waveforms is available. The AFD test message will also be sent at 0300 UTC in CW.

Those who want a QSL should complete the [request form](#) on the MARS website.

**Source:** <http://www.arri.org/news/annual-armed-forces-day-crossband-communication-test-set-for-saturday-may-12>



# Beginner's Corner

## Forgot Something?

A couple weeks ago, the Lilburn Emergency Amateur Radio Net (LEARN) invited GARS members to one of their outings. We met at a nice pavilion and prepared to set up our radios as if we had been called up to deploy and communicate for a disaster.

We had a nice demonstration on the Chameleon Tactical Antenna. Others showed their go boxes, and some amateurs were able to get on the air. One ham brought her FT-897 and a small HF antenna. She was concerned that she had not been able to make a QSO (contact) yet with her setup. With some help from some more experienced hams, she was able to make a contact. She was excited.

One ham bought his go kit that was mounted inside a cooler. He had his radio, batteries, and rigs all neatly stashed. It was really "cool." He took out his antenna and set it up.

Another couple hams had a go box consisting of a large box with wheels on it. Inside there was a Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>) battery, a voltage booster, and a cigarette lighter socket. They set their IC-7100 and computer on top of a board in the go box. They had a really nice Alpha Antenna that was the talk of the meeting.

One ham confided to the author that he had left some accessories at home that he didn't think he would need. Let's face it, those of us who set up portable operations almost always forget something. The author has been watching a ham's YouTube channel. The channel has several videos of his camping trips and other excursions where he had set up for portable operations. "I forgot to bring something," is a frequent comment in his videos.

It might be a good idea to make a list of what you need when operating portable and add to that list when you realize that you either left something home or you need to purchase an item.

The author recently went to the Florida Gulf Coast and was able to set up a portable station for a few hours while the XYL (wife) read a book. Fortunately, we had everything we needed. We do not have battery power yet, but a phone call to the park resulted with permission to set up on one of the pavilions where electricity was available. We had a variety of antennas to choose from. We had a 50-foot length of cable with us. The author wanted to try one of the antennas that mounts on top of the van but guess what! The closest we could park was 50 feet away. The cable would not stretch. The bad news is that we needed another cable to hook to the van; the good news was that we had a tactical antenna that went up well, instead.

Keeping a list of what you need for portable operation is a good idea. Bringing what you need and what you think you need is a good idea, but it is also not wise to go overboard, either. In the Georgia State ARES Meeting in January, there was a class on what to bring in an emergency situation. The instructor listed everything but the kitchen sink! Somewhere there has to be a balance; bring what you know you anticipate is needed and trust in your good judgment that you have brought enough.

Going portable is fun, whether you have a small VHF/UHF portable or a full power station. It is enjoyable and is great preparation for emergency conditions. So now that the weather is warm, have fun in your favorite portable location.

73 de *David Harden*, KJ4CMY





# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only fifteen primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Ruth - KM4LAO	Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL
Ray - N4GYN	Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX
Bill - KK4AUA	David - KK4KAF	Kevin - KK4WOG
Chuck - KK4TKJ	Mike - KK4KHS	Donna - KM4FMW

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at [KK4TKJ@arrl.net](mailto:KK4TKJ@arrl.net). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord*, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager

# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in April

**Martin Goff (KK4EBS)  
Gilberto Guillama (KJ4HNZ)  
Joel Levine (WA4HNL)  
Joseph Wilson (KN4KBH)**

**New Members: 4**

**Total Members as of May 1, 2018  
292**

**Join GARS members for our  
weekly breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays  
  
at**

**Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

**([Directions](#))**

**The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in May:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!  
From All of Us at GARS**

**Charles Allport (WS4TOT)  
Timothy Atkin  
William Bentley (KJ4MXM)  
Maggie Colley (KM4PTW)  
Steve Garrison (N4TTY)  
Bill Grimes (KK4AUA)  
William Hawkins (WR1TR)  
Mark Kozma (KD3GC)  
Sandra Lovelace (KF4BUW)  
Gregory Mann (KM4RKT)  
David Mattison (KD4PCK)  
Delmar Mc Cue (KM4JKM)  
Robert Prisant (KN4GZG)  
Kimberley Romero  
Thaddeus Ruchalski (KK4DFM)  
Robert Sanctuary (N4YWR)  
Adrian (Ade) Shamblin (KJ4CUY)  
Larry Thill (W4LJT)**

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ





















## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### Repeater Status





6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added

## G A R S Officers and Committee Chairs

John Davis, President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson, Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle, Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy, Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins, Program Manager	N4COR	
Karen Albritton, Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader and Winter Field Day Chair	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Dorothy Jubon, Public Information Officer	N2DLJ	
Ralph Pickwick, Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Neal Gilchrist, TechFest Chair	W4HNG	
Bill Eggers, GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers, WAS-Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Pam Meridy, GA QSO Party Chair	WB1AKQ	
Kyle Albritton, Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	

### DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton	W4KDA	
Mike Weathers	ND4V	
Rick Cobb	N4XYY	
Bill Cherepy, W4GR Trustee	WB4WTN	



**Robert (Mike) Smith**  
5191 La Paloma Dr.  
Lilburn, GA 30047  
Phone (404)-509-3104  
[Smithrm70@hotmail.com](mailto:Smithrm70@hotmail.com)

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## GARS on Social Media

GARS has moved from Yahoo Groups to Groups.io!

If you were subscribed to the Yahoo group, you have been automatically enrolled in Groups.io!



Join GARS on Groups.io:  
<http://gars.org/groups.io>

Visit



GARS on Facebook:  
<http://gars.org/facebook>



Join GARS on YouTube:  
<http://gars.org/youtube>



Follow GARS on Twitter:  
<http://gars.org/twitter>

## GARS MEETING MINUTES

### Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society – GENERAL Meeting Minutes 4/10/2018

President John Davis (WB4QDX) opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Closed the meeting at 9:30pm  
EAA Facility, 690 Hanger Rd. Lawrenceville, GA.

**Introductions and Visitors:** Visitors were recognized and full Introductions of the **75** attendees followed.

**Treasurer:** Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) Gave the Club financial report.

**Membership Chair:** Karen Albritton (KI4HPP) reported the Membership is at (291).

**Program Manager:** Rand Collins (N4COR) Introduced the Evening's Program and Presenter.

Upcoming Programs:

- May - David Adcock (KA4KKF) on GARS Field Day
- June – At Field Day for Ice Cream
- July – Officer to speak on the Active Shooter Situation
- August – I Have My License, Now What?

**Education Chair:** Ralph Pickwick (KJ4CNC) reported our successful Ham Cram where 11 Tested and 10 Passed.

**GARS Workshop Program:** David (W4DTR)

April - What is Morse Code  
May - N3FJP Logging Software  
June – Getting started in Satellite  
July – CPR and ADE device

**VE Team Chair:** Dave (W4DTR) reports the last Testing Session had 10 applicants with 8 passing where TWO went from zero to Extra Class successfully.

**GA QSO Party Chair:** Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) reminded us of the GA QSO Party contest this coming weekend, April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> at the EAA Hanger. Lunch provided and Drinks throughout the event.

**May Madness Chair:** Earl Whatley (AF4FG) reminds us of the upcoming GARS Only event on **May 4 thru May 13**. The Rules & Logs can be downloaded from GARS web site.

**Memorial Day Parade Volunteer Chair:** Earl Whatley (AF4FG) reminds us of the Parade effort GARS volunteers for on **May 28<sup>th</sup>** and asks all to sign up to volunteer on the GARS web site.

**Field Day Chair:** David Adcock (KA4KKF) reminds us again of Field Day on June 23rd & 24th at Harbins Park. He also promoted the GARS Field Day T-Shirt Logo Design Contest. Everyone is encouraged to come up with a design and submit it to **Ralph Pickwick (KJ4CNC) by April 30th**. See the 2018 Field Day T-Shirt Contest on the GARS web site.

## BREAK

**Program:** ARES Program by Hal Collier (W4IGE)

Assisted by:

- Larry (AB4NX)
- Kyle (W4KDA)
- David (KA4KKF)

Submitted by: Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) GARS Secretary



## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

### From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

#### June 2018

9-11 [June VHF](#)  
16 [Kid's Day](#)  
23-24 [Field Day](#)

#### July 2018

9-11 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

#### August 2018

4-5 [222 MHz & Up Distance Contest](#)  
18-19 [10 GHz and Up – Round 1](#)  
19 [Rookie Roundup - RTTY](#)

#### September 2018

8-10 [September VHF](#)  
15-16 [10 GHz & Up—Round 2](#)  
29-30 [EME - 2.3 GHz And Up](#)

#### October 2018

15-19 [School Club Roundup](#)  
27-28 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

#### November 2018

24-25 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)  
3-5 [Nov. Sweepstakes – CW](#)  
17-19 [Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone](#)  
30 [160 Meter \(Day 1\)](#)

#### December 2018

1-2 [160 Meter \(Days 2 and 3\)](#)  
8-9 [10 Meter](#)  
16 [Rookie Roundup—CW](#)

### For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### 05/18/2018 | [Great Lakes Division Convention \(Dayton Hamvention\)](#)

**Location:** Xenia, OH

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Dayton Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://hamvention.org>

### 06/02/2018 | [Georgia Section Convention \(Atlanta Hamfest\)](#)

**Location:** Marietta, GA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC) & Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club (W4BTI)

**Website:** <http://atlantahamfest.org>

### 08/18/2018 | [Southeastern Division Convention \(Huntsville Hamfest\)](#)

**Location:** Huntsville, AL

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Huntsville Hamfest Association

**Website:** <http://www.hamfest.org>

### 08/31/2018 | [Roanoke Division Convention \(Shelby Hamfest\)](#)

**Location:** Shelby, NC

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Shelby Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://shelbyhamfest.org>

### 11/03/2018 | [Georgia Section Convention \(Stone Mountain Hamfest\)](#)

**Location:** Lawrenceville, GA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Alford Memorial Radio Club

**Website:** <http://stonemountainhamfest.com/>

### For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

**Note:** When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

**Southeastern:** GA, AL, FL **Delta:** TN **Roanoke:** NC, SC

GARS Events Calendar for 2018		GARS Recurring Calendar
Dog Show Fundraisers      February 1-4, August Tech HamCrams              March 31, October TechFest ( <a href="http://www.techfest.info">www.techfest.info</a> )      January 20 Winter Field Day              January 27 & 28 Georgia QSO Party            April 14 & 15 North metro area Fox Hunt   April 7 May Madness                  May 4—13 Memorial Day Parade        May 28 ARC/KARC Hamfest          June 2 Field Day                        June 23 & 24 General HamCram              July JOTA                              October Maker Faire                    October Stone Mt. Hamfest          November Christmas Party                December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Club Meeting</li> <li>♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Workshop</li> <li>♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm:  <a href="#">GARS Ham Exam Session</a>            Fire Station #24            2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd            Buford, GA 30519</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am:            GARS Weekly Breakfast            Golden Corral Restaurant            2155 Riverside Parkway,            Lawrenceville, GA 30043</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>No June GARS Speaker Ice Cream Social at Harbins Park (GARS Field Day site)</b></p>		

**GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY 2018**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 29	April 30 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	1	2	3	4 <i>May Madness May 4-13</i>	5 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
6	7 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	8 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting	9	10	11	12 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
13 <b>GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm Gwinnett Co. Fire Station #24</b>	14 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	15 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Workshop	16	17	18	19 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
20	21 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	22	23	24	25	26 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
27	28 GARS 2m Net Dacula Memorial Day Parade	29	30	31	June 1	June 2 Breakfast <b>Atlanta Hamfest</b> Cobb Civic Center Marietta



## Metro Testing Sessions

*GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.*

### First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)

VEC: WCARS

Braselton Public Utility Building

4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA

Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T

(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560

[w4rlg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

VEC: WCARS

Hall County EOC

470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.

Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD

(770) 536-3056

### Second Saturday

10:00 AM

Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center

13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004

Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK

E-mail: [km4ik.ian@gmail.com](mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com)

### Third Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL

9:30 am (Appointments required, no walk-ins)

Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge

840 VFW Drive

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP

Email: [fhaynes@vatmom.net](mailto:fhaynes@vatmom.net)

(678) 467-3712

### Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm

Fire Station #24

Mall of Georgia Boulevard

Buford, GA 30519

Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

### Third Saturday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg

66 McElroy Street

Winder, GA 30680

Contact: Steve Donellan, N5SMD

(404) 520-0368

E-mail: [n5smd@comcast.net](mailto:n5smd@comcast.net)

(cont. next column)

## Ham Exam Results

### April Results

We had a very successful exam session Sunday, 4/8. Seventeen exams were administered to ten applicants. Three new Technician, One General, and Four Extra class licenses were earned. Two of the Extra class licensees went from no license to Extra in the one sitting. One of them was a visitor from Germany and the other is an Australian. Not sure but I think this is the first time we have two "trifectas" in one session.

Thanks to the following VE's who made this session possible.

Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN

Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC

Steve Back, WB2OGY

Karen Whited, AB4NW

Larry Whited, AB4NX

Frank Haynes, KV4SP

Russell Prevost, KN4CGO

Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ

Dave Bruse, W4DTR - CVE

*73, Sid Weaver, N4NQ (Co-CVE)*

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

GARS VE Website:

<http://gars.org/exams>

### Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7 pm @ United Way Service Center

6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville

Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK

(770) 942-6466

### Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech

VanLeer Elec. Building

Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.

For more information go to

[www.w4aql.com](http://www.w4aql.com) and click on "Test Sessions"

## Metro Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

Downtown Marietta

Fire Station #1, Training Room

112 Haynes Street

Marietta, Georgia 30060

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Talk In 146.880(-)

### First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ

1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta

Meeting is at 7:30pm

Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library

1344 South Broad Street, Commerce

Meeting is at 6:30pm

Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

### Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218

Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.

Georgia Tech Campus

Meeting at 7:00pm

### Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church

Annistown Rd & Spain Rd

Stone Mountain

Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club

Board Room of The Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta

at 10:00 AM

### Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept

Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

13450 Cogburn Road

Alpharetta, GA 30004

meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to:

<http://www.gars.org/>

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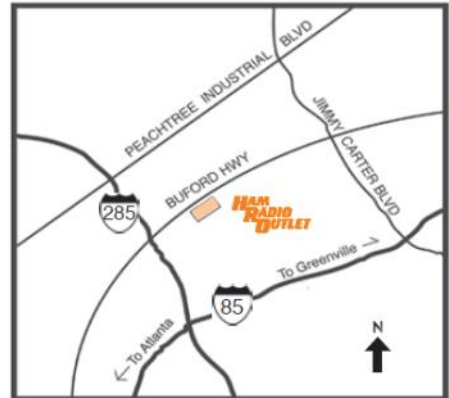


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